

BLUE VERVAIN

Verbena hastata

Located in swales, damp thickets and along shores throughout the Division. Also known as Simpler's Joy, Wild Hyssop, Purvain, Iron-Weed and False Vervain.

An erect perennial with rough-hairy, 4-sided stems, branched above; 0.4 to 1.5 m high. The leaves are oblong lance-shaped to narrowly oval, pointed at the tips and narrowed at the base, coarsely toothed, opposite, lower leaves sometimes with basal lobes; 5 to 18 cm long. Narrow, pencil-like spikes are numerous from the upper axils, each on a long stalk; many violet-blue flowers (rarely white or pink) crowd each spike; blooming from July to September. Small nutlets developing after the blossoms fade.

The nutlets are eaten by marsh, shore and song birds; the plant eaten by rabbits.





Notes